(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Poverty Eradication Programme

4277. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that poverty eradication programme has failed; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir, the poverty ratio has declined from 1983-84 to 1987-88. This decline can be attributed both to growth of output and employment in the process of economic growth as well as to the impact of poverty alleviation programme.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Decentralisation of the Planning Process

4278. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether non-governmental organisation in their meeting with Finance Minister had suggested for decentralisation of the planning process to make it more responsive to local needs;

(b) whether these NGOs had suggested the Government to abolish the centrally sponsored schemes to achieve that objective; and

(c) if so, the response of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The representatives of the Non-Governmental Organisations in their pre-budget meeting with the Union Finance Minister held on 24th June, 1996 had suggested that the planning process should be decentralised and made more responsive to local needs.

(b) Yes, Sir. They had also suggested that the Centrally Sponsored Schemes should be abolished to bring about true devolution/decentralisation to the States.

(c) The whole issue of transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes to the States is likely to be discussed in the forthcoming meeting of the National Development Council (NDC).

Drinking Water Scheme for Karnataka

4279. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide drinking water in urban areas of Karnataka with the aid of World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the details of the urban areas to be covered under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Delay in Developmental Project

4280. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there were 399 developmental projects pending till December last in the country whose costs were more than 20 crore rupees :

(b) if not, the facts in this regard and the Ministry-wise details of these projects;

(c) whether it is a fact that the construction costs of these projects have been increased heavily due to their non-completion on time; and

(d) if so, the original estimated costs of these projects and now their revised estimated costs on their completion and the number of projects out of them which have received loans from foreign financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. As on 31.12.1995, there were 399 Central Sector developmental projects costing Rs. 20 crores and above under implementation and are being monitored by the Department of Programme Implementation. Project-wise and ministry wise details of the 399 projects are given in the Quarterly Project Implementation Status Report for the quarter October-December, 1995. A copy of the report is available in the Parliament library.

(c) As on 31.12.1996, the cost of 138 projects had increased by 50.5% with respect to the latest approved cost. Among other factors of cost overrun the main reason is non-completion of projects in time.

(d) The original estimated cost and now anticipated cost of the projects are also given in the Quarterly Project Implementation Status Report for the quarter Oct.-Dec. 1995. Out of 399 projects 60 projects are being implemented with assistance from the foreign financial institutions.

[English]

Maintenance Jobs

4281. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed in its judgements for the abolition of Contract Labour System;

(b) if so, whether CPWD is the biggest department which has started getting the regular maintenance jobs of Government colonies done by awarding labour contracts; and

(c) if so, the time by which such directions are likely to be implemented in CPWD?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has only recommended that all Undertakings which are employing the contract Labour System in any process/operation or work which satisfies the factors mentioned in Clauses (a) to (d) of Section 10(2) of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 should, on their own, discontinue the Contract Labour and absorb as many of the labour as is feasible as their direct employees.

(b) By and large, day to day maintenance activities are being got done by the CPWD through employees of the department. In certain exceptional cases, including those works which are of a seasonal or intermittent character, the maintenance works are got done by the CPWD through contract.

(c) The Ministry of Labour, which is the appropriate Government under the Act is obtaining the comments of all Departments and State Governments on the recommendation made by the Supreme Court. Based on the comments received a decision will be taken by the Ministry of Labour.

Wasteland Development

4282. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated to improve forestry and alkaline soil in wasteland and hilly areas in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the districts selected for these schemes;

(d) the time by which these schemes are likely to be implemented and the acreade of land likely to be covered under these schemes in the State; and

(e) the number of families likely to be benefited through these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The State Government of Assam has not formulated any Scheme to improve forestry and alkaline soil in Wasteland or hilly areas in Assam.

(b) to (e). Question does not arise.

Oil Imports

4283. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there had been 44.15 percent increase in Oil Imports for April-June, 1996 over the corresponding period of the previous year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c). The increase in oil imports during April-June 1996 over the corresponding period of the previous year was primarily due to increase in consumption of petroleum products, increase in crude oil processing in the country and lower production of indigenous crude